THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Government have received reports of this statement.

(b) The statement of the Pakistan Prime Minister constitutes a serious departure from the provisions of the Simla Agreement and reflects a perceptible hardening of the posture of the Pakistan Government towards India.

(c) Government's serious concern about the position adopted by the Pakistan authorities has been periodically communicated to them.

Presence of former President of Pak-occupied Kashmir at NAM Conference

83. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Mr. K. H. Khurshid, former President of Pak-occupied Kashmir, attended the recently held NAM Conference at Harare and distributed tendentious literature to the delegates condemning India even when he was not in the official Pak delegation; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) and (b) It is a fact that K. H. Khurshid was present at the recently held NAM Summit at Harare and was seen distributing offending literature to some delegates. Our strong objection to this has been conveyed to the Government of Pakistan.

Hijacking of Pan Am Jumbo Jet at Karachi

84. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a recently hijacked Pan Am Jumbo jet at Karachi a number of Indian passengers were killed following shoot out by Pakistani commandos;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof stating the number of Indian passengers killed; and

(c) whether the matter has been taken up by the Government of India with the Government of Pakistan with regard to the handling of the situation by Pakistani commandos resulting in the deaths of a number of Indians and other passengers; if so, what is the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) and (b) in the recent hijacking of a Pan American aircraft at Karachi 20 persons were killed including 13 Indian nationals.

(c) Government have expressed their dismay at the handling of this incident by the Pakistan authorities and have called on the Pakistan authorities to provide a detailed and authentic report on the incident at a very early date.

Availability of yarn to handloom sector

85. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA DEVISINGH PATIL: Will the Minister of TEXTILE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to provide adequate availability of yarn and other materials at a reasonable price to the handloom sector; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(b) what is the quantum of yarn supplied to each State as against their requirement since 1985?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) In order to provide adequate supply of yarn to the handloom sector, Government of India have imposed a statutory obligation on all mills to pack at least 50 per cent of their marketable yarn in the form of hanks, out of which 85 per cent should be in counts 40s and below. The National Handloom Development Corporation, set up with the main object of supplying raw

materials to the handloom sector, has set up three yarn depots at Guwahati, Bhagalpur and Bihar Sharif and is also supplying yarn to other States like Kerala, Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh through the State handloom agencies. The Corporation has also started supply dyes and chemicals.

(b) There is no scheme for supply of yarn to States against their requirement. Figures of civil deliveries, of hank yarn by the mills State-wise are not available. However, the total hank yarn deliveries, for the country as a whole, during 1985 amounted to 373.19 million kgs.

Modernisation of looms

86. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA DEVISINGH PATIL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have so far been taken for the modernisation of looms and provision of technological and other inputs for improving the productivity of handloom sector in pursuance of the textile policy announced by Government in 1985; and

(b) what are the details of the amount earmarked for this purpose during the current year and how much of it has actually been spent thereon so far?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) In order to increase the productivity of looms and quality of fabrics and with a view to ultimately increase the earnings of weavers, greater emphasis has been placed on modernisation of looms and provision of technological and other inputs. Following steps have been taken in this direction:

(i) The quantum of assistance has been increased to Rs. 2,000/- per loom for ordinary loom and Rs. 4,000/- per loom for Semi-automatic|Jacquard loom from Rs. 1000/- and Rs. 2,500/- respectively.

(ii) A sub-Committee on Modernisation of looms has been constituted to assess the suitability of the existing modernisation scheme and make recommendations for improving the package of modernisation of handlooms and its delivery system.

(iii) State-wise targets have been assigned for modernisation of looms for the current year.

(iv) Various training programmes on polyester weaving etc. have been undertaken and it is proposed to organise seminars and publicise the concept of modernisation through the theme pavilion in Handloom Fairs|Expos, etc.

(b) A sum of Rs. 175.00 lakhs has been provided in the current year's budget for the Scheme. A sum of Rs. 34.70 lakhs has been approved for release so far. Further proposal of the order of about Rs. 150 lakhs have also been received from the States so far.

Effects of the new textile policy

87. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA DEVISINGH PATIL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the effects of the new textile policy of Government on handlooms, powerlooms and textile mills since its implementation;

(b) whether Government have reviewed from time to time and taken stock of the situation arisen after the implementation of the new textile policy in order to make the policy a success;

(c) what are the bottlenecks being faced by the handloom and powerloom sectors towards producing the required anticipated quantity of handloom and powerloom cloth during the last one year; and

(d) to what extent the prices of textile mill cloth have come down since the implementation of the new textile policy?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) The overall impact of the new textile policy on the textile industry as a whole has been encouraging. The total cloth production by